

Message Text

SECRET

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 IO-14

CCO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 MC-02 EB-11

AF-10 NEA-10 /154 W

----- 014081

O R 181810Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1412

INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAREUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CG SETAF

AMCONSUL FLORENCE

S E C R E T ROME 11409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, IT, XF

SUBJECT: USE OF PORT OF LIVORNO FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS

REF: USCINCEUR 171127Z OCT 73

1. REFTEL REPEATED TO DEPARTMENT REPORT FROM 8TH LOG COMMAND IN LIVORNO THAT STEVEDORES WERE REFUSING TO LOAD US NAVY CARGO SHIPS WITH AMMUNITION BOUND FOR THE UNITED STATES UNTIL THEY RECEIVED ASSURANCE FROM PREFECT THAT AMMUNITION WAS NOT DESTINED FOR THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. COMMANDER 8TH LOG COMMAND MET WITH PREFECT, WHO ACCEPTED ASSURANCES AND ATTEMPTED TO PERSUADE STEVEDORES TO RETURN TO WORK. HOWEVER, THE STEVEDORES WERE NOT SATISFIED, AND HAVE DEMANDED FORMAL MINISTERIAL-LEVEL ASSURANCE FROM ROME. PREFECT CONTACTED MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE, WHICH HAS STATED ITS WILLINGNESS TO ISSUE THE ASSURANCE BUT HAS NOT YET PUT IT

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ON PAPER. WE ARE NOT SURE HOW LONG THIS WILL TAKE DESPITE CONTACT

WE HAVE MADE WITH MFA ON THE MATTER, OR WHETHER STEVEDORES WILL NOT CHOOSE TO FIND OTHER REASONS TO DELAY LOADING OF SHIP.

3. COMET IS STILL IN PORT, BUT IS PLANNING TO SAIL MORNING OF OCTOBER 19 IF STEVEDORES DO NOT START WORKING.

4. FACTUAL STORY WAS CARRIED TODAY BY ANSA, NATIONAL WIRE SERVICE, INCLUDING SETAF STATEMENT THAT MATERIAL IS DESTINED FOR U.S.

5. WE ARE INFORMED BY THE 8TH LOG COMMAND THAT THE ITEMS TO BE SHIPPED ARE NOT CRITICAL, AND WE SEE NO PROBLEM IN LETTING THE SHIP SAIL TOMORROW, EVEN IF STEVEDORES MAY INTERPRET THIS AS IMPLYING THAT THEIR SUSPICIONS WERE JUSTIFIED.

6. SINCE ABOVE WAS DRAFTED MFA HAS INFORMED US THAT MINISTRY OF MERCHANT MARINE IS WILLING TO ISSUE ASSURANCE REQUESTED BY STEVEDORES IF MFA APPROVES. MFA OFFICIAL SAID HE EXPECTED APPROVAL FROM MINISTER MORO TONIGHT AND HE HOPED PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED BY MORNING. VOLPE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME11409
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS VOLPE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731024/aaaaarjp.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USCINCEUR 171127Z OCT 73
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USE OF PORT OF LIVORNO FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS
TAGS: MASS, IT, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005